

Electronic Version 1.1

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Description

MEDICAL DEVICE CARRIER

[0001] Continuation History: This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 10/225,939 filed on 8/21/2002, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] According to the present invention, the mobile medical device carrier is a wheeled, human-operated cart designed to assist the operator by providing a place to secure a medical apparatus such as a Vacuum Assisted Closure (V.A.C.) device, as well as store assorted dressings, cords, and other personal effects that may be convenient to have on the cart as well. The cart is easily maneuverable, permitting those individuals using such medical devices to be mobile, despite having to be in close proximity to these types of devices. Further, the handle is designed so that the operator of the cart does not have to stoop over to reach the handle, as well as being ergonomically designed to permit the cart to be easily pushed or pulled, depending upon the user's current need.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0003] The present invention relates to a cart able to carry various portable medical devices, and which facilitates the easy transport of the same by a

person. This is preferable, and in some cases required, to provide a person or patient with the needed independence of being able to tote their medical apparatus as well as walk around, with little or no outside assistance.

[0004] Many people, particularly the infirm or elderly, require various medical apparatus to keep them healthy, most of which are heavy and bulky, or at the very least, inconvenient. These devices are often tethered to the patient, meaning they must maintain a close proximity in order for the apparatus to be effective. Add to this most of these peoples' relative inability to carry heavy items any distance, and you have a recipe for inactivity and immobility, exactly the opposite lifestyle most people need to maintain or restore their health.

[0005] The current invention fills the existing gap in technology by providing a cart that employs a handle that, due to its positioning and ergonomics, enables the user to easily push it alongside them, or to pull it behind, if desired. Additionally, the unique employment of swivel wheels in relation to the aforementioned handle make possible easy maneuvering, particularly around corners and in tight spaces. The cart has room on its platform for the desired medical apparatus, such as a Vacuum Assisted Closure (V.A.C.) unit, respirator, or the like. In this fashion, mobility is restored to the user of the cart, boosting mobility, decreasing fatigue and netting an overall increase in morale, and hopefully, health.

MODE FOR THE INVENTION

[0006] One object of the invention is to provide a device capable of carrying a medical device, thus freeing the user of the need to carry or find space for such medical device.

[0007] Another object of this invention is to provide a mobile medical device carrier capable of being easily pushed or pulled.

[0008] Still another object of the invention is to provide a device with a handle that will not drop beyond a certain point, thus providing a handle without having to stoop over to grab such handle.

[0009] Other objects and advantages of this invention shall become apparent from the ensuing descriptions of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] The accompanying drawings illustrate an embodiment of this invention. However, it is to be understood that this embodiment is intended to be neither exhaustive, nor limiting of the invention. They are but examples of some of the forms in which the invention may be practiced.

[0011] FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of the mobile medical device carrier

[0012] FIG. 2A shows a top view of the mobile medical device carrier.

[0013] FIG. 2B shows a bottom view of the mobile medical device carrier.

[0014] FIG. 3 shows a side view of the mobile medical device carrier with the handle in various positions.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0015] Without any intent to limit the scope of this invention, reference is made to the figures in describing the various embodiments of the invention.

Referring to FIGS. 1 through 3, a mobile medical device carrier **100** is pictured, having platform **101** where medical device **102** can be placed and secured by straps **103**. Implementations may also include a small repository **104** where small articles **105** can be stored alongside medical device **102**. Carrier **100** will also have a handle **106** attached to platform **101** in order for user **107** to be able to steer and otherwise maneuver carrier **100**.

[0016] In operation, medical device **102**, such as a Vacuum Assisted Closure unit (V.A.C.), a respirator or an oxygen tank, would be placed on or in carrier **100** and secured with straps **103**, which can be of many types, as will be readily apparent to those versed in the art. Hook and loop fastener, such as VELCRO_®, is an example of one such type of strapping material. Tubing or other small articles **105** could also be placed on carrier in the repository **104** on carrier **100**.

[0017] Once loaded and ready, user **107** can utilize carrier **100** by using his or her hand to engage handle **106** to propel carrier **100** in the direction user **107** is traveling. Propulsion from user **107** can originate as a pushing motion when handle **106** is in a partially folded position, as seen in FIG. 3. Propulsion from user **107** can also be a pulling motion, when handle **106** is in its extended position, permitting user **107** to pull carrier **100** behind himself, also seen in FIG. 3. Propulsion can also be derived from a propulsion device **497** such as a motor or the like.

[0018] One of the unique aspects of carrier 100 is handle 106 which aids user 107 by not requiring user 107 to stoop over to retrieve handle 106. Handle 106 is configured such that first hinge 108 prevents handle 106 to travel in an arc no greater than approximately 15 degrees from the floor beneath carrier 100, and upwards again to approximately 90 degrees relative to platform 101. First hinge 108 travel can be controlled by using first hinge 108 with limited travel, or shaping or positioning handle 106 in such a way to prevent travel beyond a certain point. Various methods of limiting travel will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art. In this way, user 107 is not ever required to stoop or bend over, which can place additional strain on damaged or underdeveloped muscles (such as those in the back, legs or neck) which may lead to discomfort to user 107 or even further injury.

[0019] This handle is also preferably constructed of two sections, namely a handle leader 499 and the handle 106. These can be attached via various means, such as a second hinge 498 or other type of attachment, fixed or otherwise, which gives handle leader 499 the ability to be extended back across the length of the platform 101 such that carrier 100 can be pushed along or to be extended in front of platform 101 in order to be pulled behind the user 107. The travel of handle leader 499 is limited as well, such that second hinge 498 only permits handle leader 499 to travel an arc approximately 180 degrees relative to handle 106 to a position approximately 90 degrees relative to handle 106.

[0020] This dual-hinged system permits the unique force direction properties of the carrier 100, namely, that when handle 106 and handle leader 499 are

folded to be above platform 101, user's 107 pushing force is translated into a pulling motion on carrier 100, aiding in mobility and ease of use.

[0021] Although only a few exemplary embodiments of this invention have been described in detail above, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible in the exemplary embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention as defined in the following claims.